

identity of its type species, I fully agree with his views and conclusions. Therefore I endorse his application to designate *Lecanium coffeae* Walker, 1852 as the type species of *Saissetia*.

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In this application, Dr Y. Ben-Dov proposes that *Lecanium coffeae* Walker be designated the type species for the genus *Saissetia* Déplanche, and asks that the name *Saissetia coffeae* Déplanche be suppressed.

I would like to support his application. This genus is of world-wide economic importance and so it is imperative that the status of these two species names should be stabilised. I consider that his proposal does this with the least disturbance to modern usage and to the current understanding of the genus *Saissetia*.

The evidence seems extremely strong that the *Saissetia coffeae* of Déplanche was a mealybug. As there is no way of knowing which mealybug Déplanche was studying in 1859, there is no species to which the name *Saissetia coffeae* Déplanche can be applied. It is therefore my belief that *Saissetia coffeae* Déplanche is best suppressed, and that the stability within scale insect taxonomy is best served by making *Lecanium coffeae* Walker the type species of *Saissetia*.

Comment on the proposed precedence of *Culicoides puncticollis* (Becker, 1903) over *C. algecirensis* (Strobl, 1900) (Insecta, Diptera)
(Case 2716; see BZN 46: 179–180)

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This is a clear-cut case where a familiar name should be given precedence over a senior subjective synonym. It is advisable for the Commission to act now before the senior synonym acquires further use. I support Dr Boorman's application.

Comments on the proposed conservation of *Callionymus pusillus* Delaroché, 1809 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes)
(Case 2688; see BZN 46: 255–258)

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1. There can be no objection to the conservation of the name *Callionymus pusillus* Delaroché, 1809 as requested by Ronald Fricke, as this is a name which has received frequent use by recent authors (see BZN 46: 256, para. 5 for details).

2. However, it is quite specious to claim that this name is threatened by *Callionymus dracunculus* Linnaeus, 1758, and applying to the Commission for the suppression of that name is unnecessary. Fricke's request is based on the composite nature of the

taxon *Callionymus dracunculus*, which was founded by Linnaeus on earlier descriptions by Gronovius (1754) and Artedi (1738). Artedi's posthumous work comprised five parts of which the *Genera Piscium* and *Synonymia Nominum Piscium* were compilations from the earlier literature. In both of these he cited the work of Rondelet (1554), and the references derived from that work in Gesner (1620) and Willughby (1686), as 'Dracunculus'. Fricke is convinced that Rondelet's description and figure were based on a specimen of the species later described as *Callionymus pusillus* Delaroche, 1809. No specimens of Rondelet's exist today. However, the first reference cited by Linnaeus (and thus his primary source) was Gronovius (1754). This description was long and detailed and a specimen which can be related to his description exists in the Natural History Museum, London (Wheeler, 1958). (It should be noted here that in his application Fricke does not mention that Gronovius gave a detailed description of the specimen, and infers that this description was in some way indebted to earlier authors. Gesner and Willughby were indeed cited but only in the sense of synonyms). Much of Gronovius's material originated from the North Sea and there is no doubt that his description refers to a specimen of *C. dracunculus* which can be referred to *Callionymus lyra* Linnaeus, 1758.

3. Recent authors who have made a critical choice of the taxonomic options have treated *C. dracunculus* as a junior subjective synonym of *C. lyra*. This synonymy was discussed by Günther (1861), who cited earlier workers as far back as Gmelin (1789). Neill (1811, p. 531) appears to have been the first author to adopt the name *lyra* in preference to *dracunculus*, so acting as first reviser (Article 24 of the Code).

4. Most recent authors have used the name *C. pusillus* for the species described originally by Rondelet (1554) and named by Delaroche (1809).

5. In view of this it seems quite unnecessary to ask for a ruling which in effect suggests that the name *C. dracunculus* was based in a significant manner on Rondelet's (1554) description which was sketchy but illustrated, rather than on the first cited reference in Linnaeus (1758) to Gronovius (1754) for which a 'type' specimen exists (Wheeler, 1958). The primary source for the basis of *C. dracunculus* was Gronovius (1754), the secondary source was Artedi (1738) who referred to Rondelet. Because the widespread opinion amongst ichthyologists in the 19th and 20th centuries is that *C. dracunculus* is a junior subjective synonym of *C. lyra* it is unnecessary and undesirable to make a case for treating it for the first time as a senior synonym of *C. pusillus*.

6. While this case may seem relatively trivial it has wider consequences because work on Linnaean fishes (Fernholm & Wheeler, 1983; Wheeler, 1985, and unpublished) shows that there are many composite species when all sources are considered. If the present case is admitted as deserving of a ruling then there is a potential for numerous similar applications from zoologists determined to unearth hitherto ignored (but known) partial synonyms. This case, like other potential cases, does nothing to stabilise zoological nomenclature.

References

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(2) Ronald Fricke

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1. In his comment above, Alwyne Wheeler doubts that the name *Callionymus pusillus* Delaroché, 1809 is threatened by the older name *Callionymus dracunculus* Linnaeus, 1758. Wheeler supposes that the name *dracunculus* is composite, being based in part on old descriptions in works of Rondeletius (1554), Gesner (1620) and Willughby (1686), and in part on a description of Gronovius (1754) which was cited first by Linnaeus (1758).

2. Gronovius (1754) provided a description of a specimen of the species later named *Callionymus dracunculus* by Linnaeus (1758). Wheeler (1958) studied a later manuscript and unlabelled specimens assumed to originate in part from Gronovius, in part from a later collector and author. In his comment, Wheeler writes that 'much of Gronovius's material originated from the North Sea and there is no doubt that his description refers to a specimen of *C. dracunculus* which can be referred to *Callionymus lyra* Linnaeus, 1758'.

3. On the contrary, I have doubts about Gronovius's description which is so vague that no definite species can be identified, nor can we be sure about the collecting locality. The fact that 'most of Gronovius's material originated from the North Sea' is not enough to ensure that this material originated from there; also, there are three species living in the North Sea area (Fricke, 1986). The specimens accompanying the manuscript of Gronovius (1766–1777), identified by Wheeler (1958) as '*Callionymus dracunculus*', were not labelled and were mounted on paper. Moreover, the original description of Gronovius does not indicate an identity with the specimens of Wheeler (1958). In fact, it is not even certain whether the specimens referred to by Wheeler (1958) are all Gronovius's material or that of a later Dutch ichthyologist who is known to have made changes in the manuscript. Nor, even if Gronovius's material, do we know if it originated from before 1754 or from a later date.

4. As indicated above, the nature of Gronovius's description and material is uncertain (there is no illustration), there is no 'type' specimen of Gronovius's (as erroneously claimed by Wheeler in his comment), nor is there any definite specimen attributable to him. On the other hand, we have a definite specific identity in the description and illustration of Rondeletius (1554), and subsequent authors, who described a species now known as *Callionymus pusillus* Delaroché, 1809. We can therefore be sure that *C. dracunculus* Linnaeus, 1758 is to be identified with *C. pusillus* and not with *C. lyra* Linnaeus, 1758. In my opinion, Günther (1861) and other authors were wrong to treat the name *C. dracunculus* as a synonym for the females and immature males of *C. lyra*. It is therefore not only justified but necessary to ask for a ruling on the names *dracunculus* and *pusillus*, stabilising the current usage of the specific names of European species of *Callionymus*.